

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 A-01  
OPR-02 AID-05 MCT-01 IO-13 OMB-01 DHA-02 PC-01 CU-02  
OC-06 CCO-00 SCA-01 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01  
AGRE-00 TRSE-00 /123 W  
-----311253Z 119567 /42 13

O R 301615Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2506

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 0535

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MCN'S ADDED; FORMAT ERRORS  
CORRECTED)

E.O. 115652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SU, ET, SO

SUBJECT: TEFERI BANTE RALLIES ETHIOPIANS AGAINST INTERNAL ENEMIES,  
NIMEIRI, AND SIAD

SUMMARY: EPMG STAGED MASSIVE PUBLIC RALLY IN ADDIS TO DEMON-  
STRATE PRO-GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AND TO CONDEMN EDU, EPRP, ELF, AND  
NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES GIVING SUPPORT TO COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY FORCES.  
ENORMOUS CROWDS, ESTIMATED AT 200,000 PEOPLE, CHANTED, CLAPPED,  
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AND DANCED ENTHUSIASTICALLY FOR NEARLY FIVE HOURS, ALTHOUGH HEAVY  
PROPAGANDA AND SOME COERCIVE MEASURES HAD BEEN USED TO ASSURE  
MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION. RALLY WAS TOUTED AS SPONTANEOUS  
RESPONSE TO PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTE'S CALL, DURING JAN 29  
SPEECH TO NATION, FOR PROGRESSIVE AND PATRIOTIC FORCES IN  
ETHIOPIA TO CREATE COMMON FRONT TO THWART INTERNAL AND  
EXTERNAL REACTIONARY ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT NATIONAL UNITY. RALLY

CLOSED WITH ADDRESS BY TEFERI APPARENTLY REPEATING MUCH OF WHAT HE HAD SAID NIGHT BEFORE. BOTH TEFERI'S SPEECHES AND OTHER SPEECHES AT RALLY, AS WELL AS PLACARDS CARRIED BY MARCHERS, WERE SHARPLY CRITICAL OF SUDANESE PRESIDENT NIMEIRI, OF SUDANESE PATRONAGE OF EDU AND ERITREANS, AND OF SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE. NUMEROUS ANTI-US AND ANTI-CIA BANNERS WERE IN EVIDENCE, AND SOME SPEAKERS, BUT NOT TEFERI, MADE DEROGATORY REFERENCES TO AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. EPRP SYMPATHIZERS INTERSPERSED IN CROWDS DROPPED MANY ANTI-GOVERNMENT LEAFLETS, PROVOKING RETALIATION. SOME SHOTS WERE REPORTEDLY FIRED, BOTH AT SCENE AND DURING ASSEMBLY, BUT FOR MOST PART THEIR PURPOSE IS AS YET UNCLEAR, (WHETHER CROWD CONTROL, OR AT OPPOSITION MEMBERS). WE BELIEVE OVER 100 PERSONS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. END SUMMARY.

1. JAN 29 PRO-GOVERNMENT RALLY WAS KICKED OFF PREVIOUS EVENING BY RADIO SPEECH BY PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTTE. TEFERI DESCRIBED ETHIOPIA AS SURROUNDED ON ALL SIDES BY COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY FORCES OF CONFIRMED REACTIONARIES, FORMER PARASITES, AND ROYALISTS MASQUERADING AS EDU, AND BESET FROM WITHIN BY SECESSIONIST ELEMENTS. HE CALLED ON EVERY PATRIOTIC ETHIOPIAN TO STAND FIRM IN DEFENSE OF COUNTRY, APPEALED TO ALL "PROGRESSIVE AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES" TO SINK THEIR MINOR DIFFERENCES, CLOSE RANKS AND FORM COMMON FRONT IN AWARENESS OF MENACE HOVERING OVER COUNTRY. INTERESTINGLY, EPRP WAS N  
NSF  
PTIONED IN ANY CONTEXT THROUGHOUT SPEECH.  
EMPHASIS WAS ON EDU.

2. ABANDONING LOW-KEY APPROACH TO ETHIOPIAN CONTROVERSY WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUDAN, TEFERI ACCUSED SUDANESE PRESIDENT NIMEIRI OF LEAVING SUDANESE BORDERS OPEN TO BENEFIT COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY AND SECESSIONIST FORCES, OF ATTEMPTING TO REVERSE COURSE OF REVOLUTION, OF DELIBERATELY AGGRAVATING BILATERAL RELATIONS BY THREATENING TO UNLEASH OVER 100,000 ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES LIVING IN SUDAN, OF HARBORING REACTIONARY GROUPS AND VIOLATING ETHIOPIAN BORDER, AND OF ATTEMPTING TO BRING ENTIRE RED SEA UNDER CONTROL OF IMPERIALISTS AND REACTIONARY GOVERNMENTS. HE THEN ACCUSED "RULERS OF SOMALIA" OF TRAINING AND ARMING MERCENARIES IN SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA WITH VIEW TO REALIZING THEIR EXPANSIONIST POLICY. BOTH NIMEIRI AND SIAD WERE ACCUSED OF PUSHING FOR REMOVAL OF OAU HEADQUARTERS FROM ADDIS ABABA AS AN INDICATION OF THEIR HOSTILITY TO ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE AND ON-GOING REVOLUTION. MOST OF SPEECH DWELT ON NEED FOR SOLIDARITY IN FACE OF EDU AND SECESSIONIST MILITARY THREAT, HOWEVER, AND WAS FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION OF SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH EPMG VIEWS MILITARY SITUATION. FURTHER DETAILS OF SPEECH BY SEPTEL.

3. EVEN BEFORE TEFERI SPEECH, MOBILE TRUCKS WITH LOUDSPEAKERS WERE ROAMING STREETS, AND KEBELE OFFICIALS WERE KNOCKING ON DOORS

TO EXHORT FULL PARTICIPATION IN "SPONTANEOUS" SUNDAY MORNING RALLY  
AND TO THREATEN VARIOUS PENALTIES FOR THOSE WHO FAILED TO SHOW UP.  
EXHORTERS DID THEIR JOB WELL, FOR CROWDS ESTIMATED AT 200,000  
CONVERGED ON REVOLUTION SQUARE, ORGANIZED FOR MOST PART INTO KEBELE  
GROUPS, TRADE UNION, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS, PEASANT ASSOCIATIONS,  
AND INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES. BULK OF PLACARDS AND BANNERS  
DISPLAYED BLASTED DISSIDENT GROUPS AND US. SLOGANS SEEN INCLUDED:  
"DOWN WITH CIA, EDU AND EPRP", "FOREIGN ENEMIES SUPPORTING ELF  
AND EDU WILL BE DEFEATED", "YANKEE GO HOME", "DOWN WITH US  
IMPERIALISM", "CIA AND INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM ARE ENEMIES OF  
DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION", "NIMEIRI AND HIS REACTIONARY SUPPORTERS  
ARE OUR ENEMIES", "SAID BARRE IS OUR ENEMY", "REVOLUTIONARY SQUADS  
SHOULD BE FORMED IMMEDIATELY, AND "ARMING MASSES IS VITAL TO  
REVOLUTION". ONE BANNER WAS SEEN PROCLAIMING FEARLESSLY,  
"EDU AND PMAC ARE WORKING TOGETHER, AND WE HAVE EVIDENCE TO  
PROVE IT".

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4. FROM OUTSET, YOUTHFUL GROUPS THROUGHOUT CITY WERE NOTED  
PASSING OUT ANTI-GOVERNMENT LEAFLETS. IN MOST SUCH CASES, POLICE  
MOVED IN QUICKLY TO TAKE THEM INTO CUSTODY. SOME SHOTS WERE FIRED,  
AND EMBASSY OBSERVERS SAW ONE BOMB OR GRENADE THROWN, CAUSING  
INJURY TO POLICEMAN. ACCORDING TO AN FSL ONE EPRP GROUP EXCHANGED  
TIENKEN

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 A-01  
OPR-02 AID-05 MCT-01 IO-13 OMB-01 DHA-02 PC-01 OC-06  
CCO-00 CU-02 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00  
AGRE-00 /123 W

-----310800Z 119954 /17/46

O R 301615Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2507

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL ASMARA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CLASSIFICATION TO READ LIMITED  
OFFICIAL USE VICE UNCLASSIFIED)

SHOTS WITH POLICE AT ENTRANCE TO STADIUM, WOUNDING 15-20 PERSONS.  
AS MANY AS 100 OR MORE PERSONS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN  
PICKED UP DURING FIVE HOUR RALLY.

5. ALL IN ALL, HOWEVER, CROWD WAS IN FESTIVE MOOD AND APPEARED  
WILLING TO DEMONSTRATE FOR ANY CAUSE. CHANTING WAS PROLONGED AND  
ENTHUSIASTIC, SECURITY MEASURES IN CITY WERE NOT EXCESSIVE.

6. REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNIONS, KEBELE,  
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ORGANIZATIONS, PEASANT AND FARMER ASSOCIATION, AND POLITBURO  
DELIVERED SHORT SPEECHES, FOLLOWING LEAD OF EARLIER TEFERI BANTE  
SPEECH. CRITICISM OF NIMEIRI AND SIAD WAS PERSONAL, AND SPEAKERS  
WERE CAREFUL TO EMPHASIZE THAT ETHIOPIANS BORE NO HOSTILITY TO  
SUDANESE PEOPLE. TEFERI BANTE AND TWO PMAC VICE-CHAIRMEN  
ATTENDED RALLY, AND CHAIRMAN REITERATED GIST OF HIS REMARKS FROM  
PREVIOUS EVENING. TRADE UNION REP SPEECH WAS NOTABLE FOR HIS CALL  
AT END FOR A) CREATION OF REVOLUTIONARY SECURITY FORCE TO  
SEEK OUT REACTIONARY FORCES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, B) FREEDOM OF PRESS  
AND MORE INFORMATIVE NEWS COVERAGE, C) GRANTING OF GENUINE  
DEMOCRACY, AND D) WORKER PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT. OTHER  
SPEAKERS ALSO CLAIMED THAT SAUDI ARABIAN PETRODOLLARS AND  
AMERICAN IMPERIALISM WERE SUPPORT REACTIONARIES AND SECESSIONISTS.  
CROWDS BEGAN TO DISPERSE LONG BEFORE CONCLUSION OF SPEECHES, AND  
BY MID-AFTERNOON CITY SHOWED NO SIGNS THAT RALLY HAD EVER  
TAKEN PLACE.  
TIENKEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, SU, ET, SO, (BANTE, TEFERI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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